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(54) **BALANCED INPUT/OUTPUT FILTER
CIRCUIT AND DEVICE**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **331/2; 331/107 A; 333/167;**
333/175

(58) **Field of Search** **334/64, 67; 331/2,**
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202, 204, 206

(56) **References Cited**

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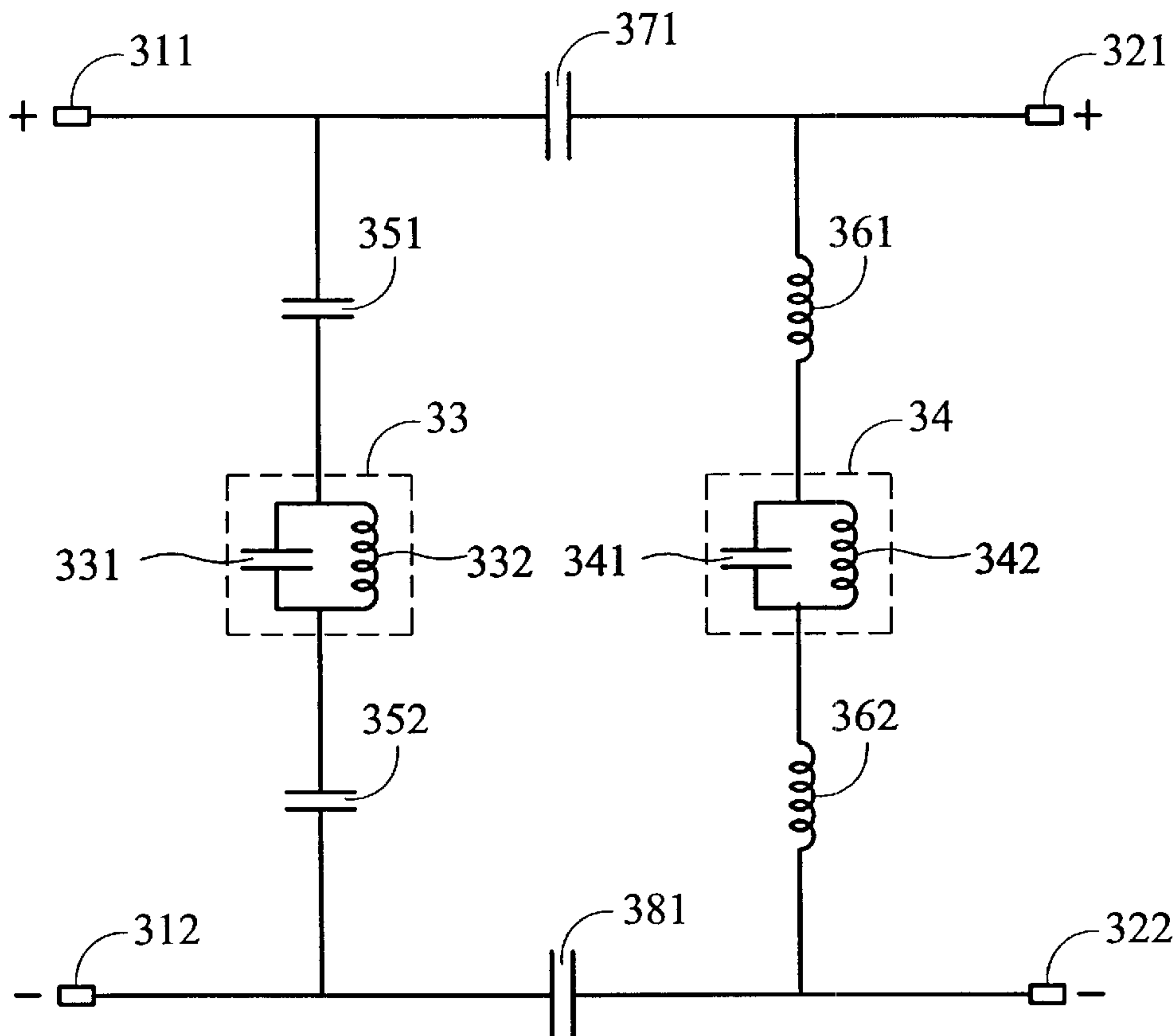
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a balanced input/output filter device comprising two resonators, a pair of coupling capacitors, a positive input terminal and a negative input terminal, and a positive output terminal and a negative output terminal. Both sides of one resonator are serial connected to spiral-type inductors on the other metal layers, and both sides of the other resonator are serial connected to parallel-type capacitors on the other metal to layers. The coupling capacitors couple between the spiral-type inductors and the parallel-type capacitors respectively, and the output and input terminals are coupled to the spiral-type inductors and parallel-type capacitors respectively, which are coupled to the resonators.

7 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



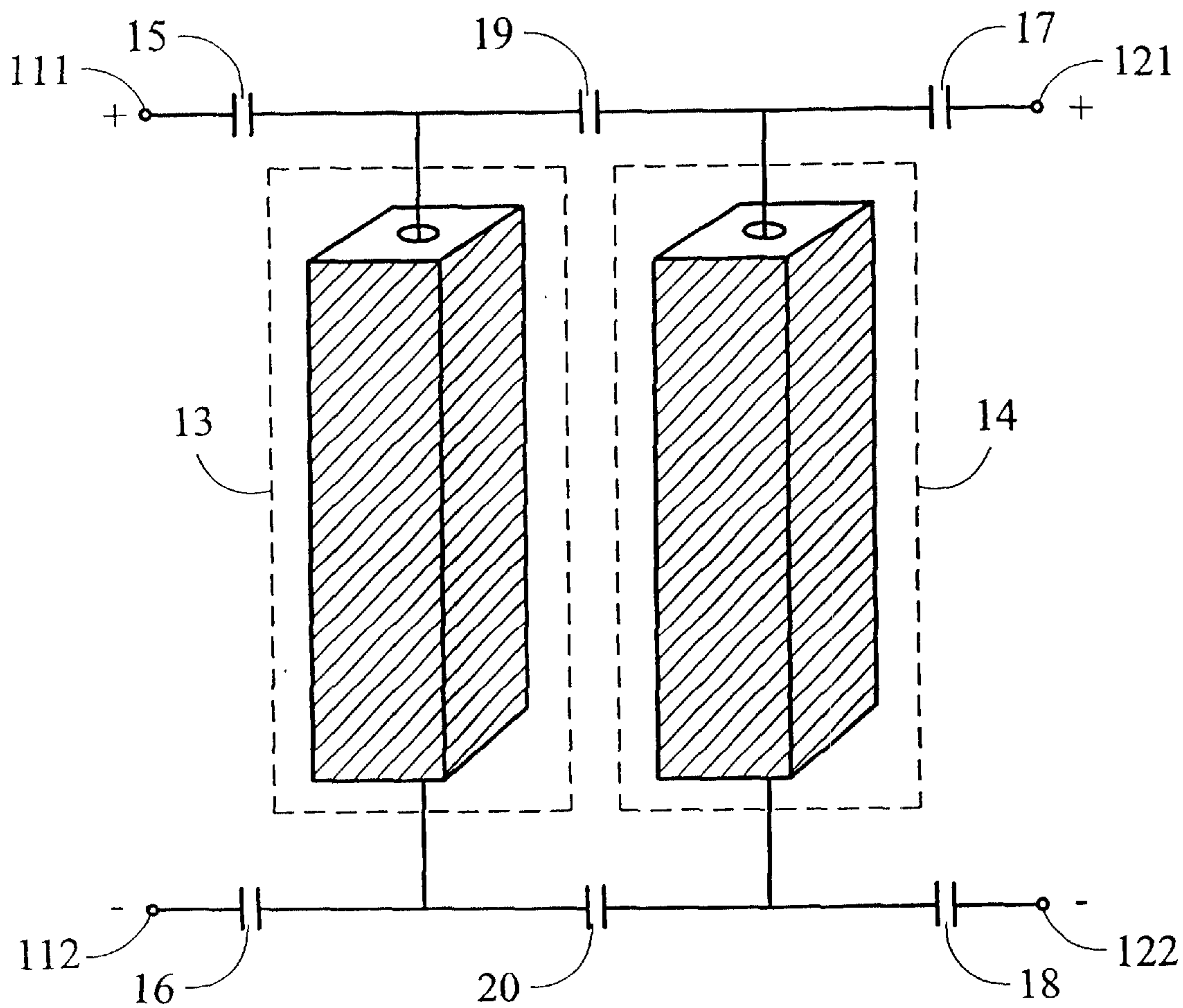


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

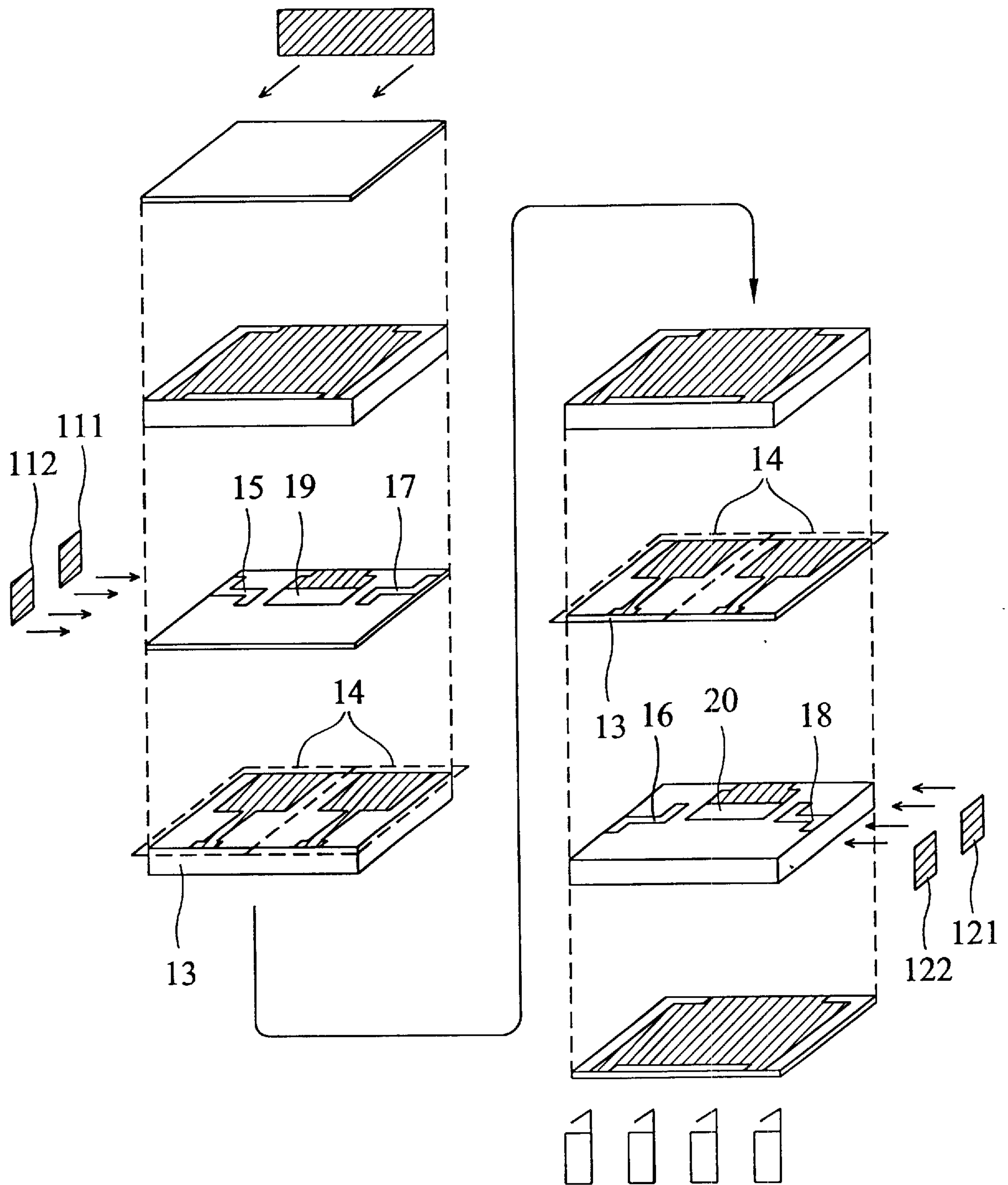


FIG. 2 (PRIOR ART)

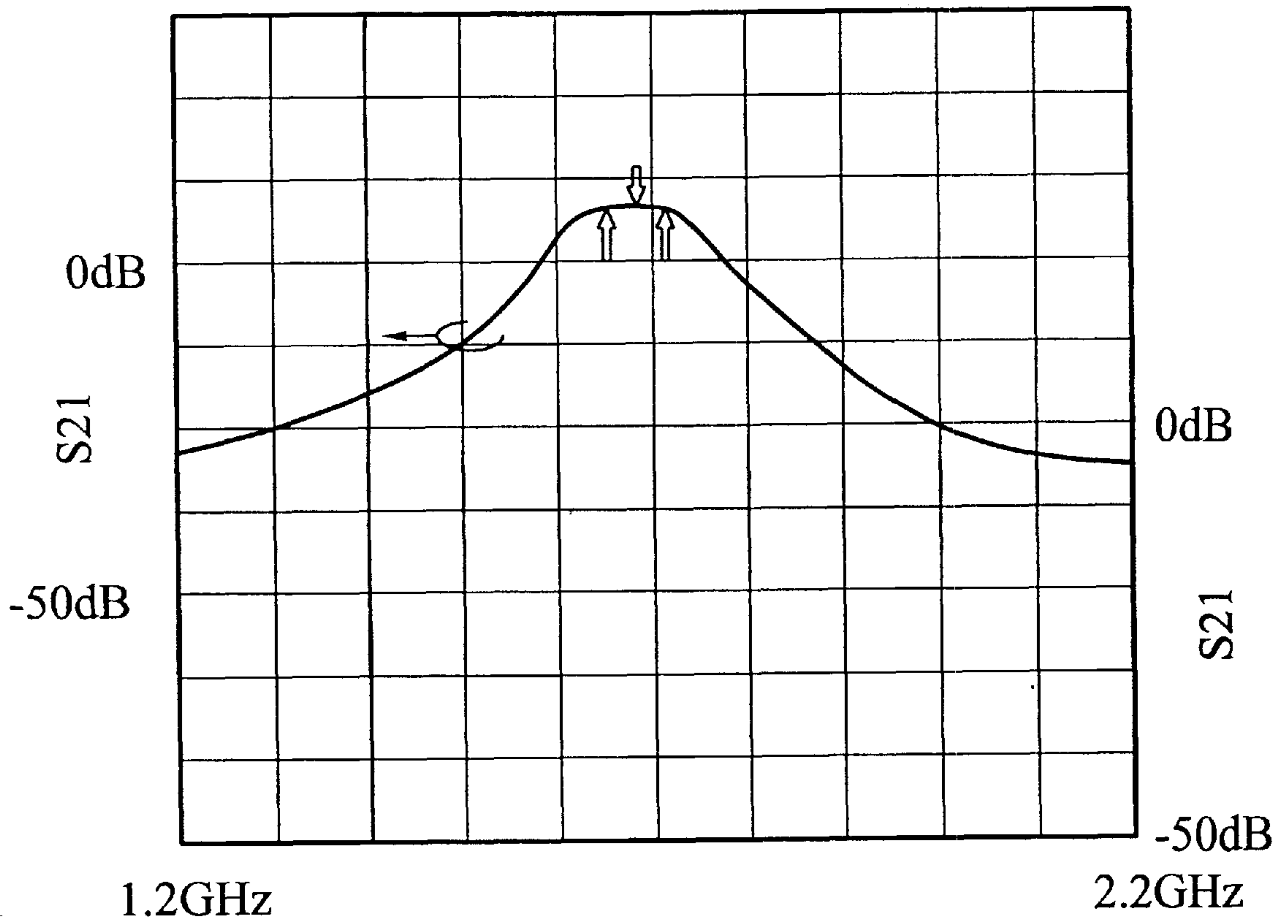


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

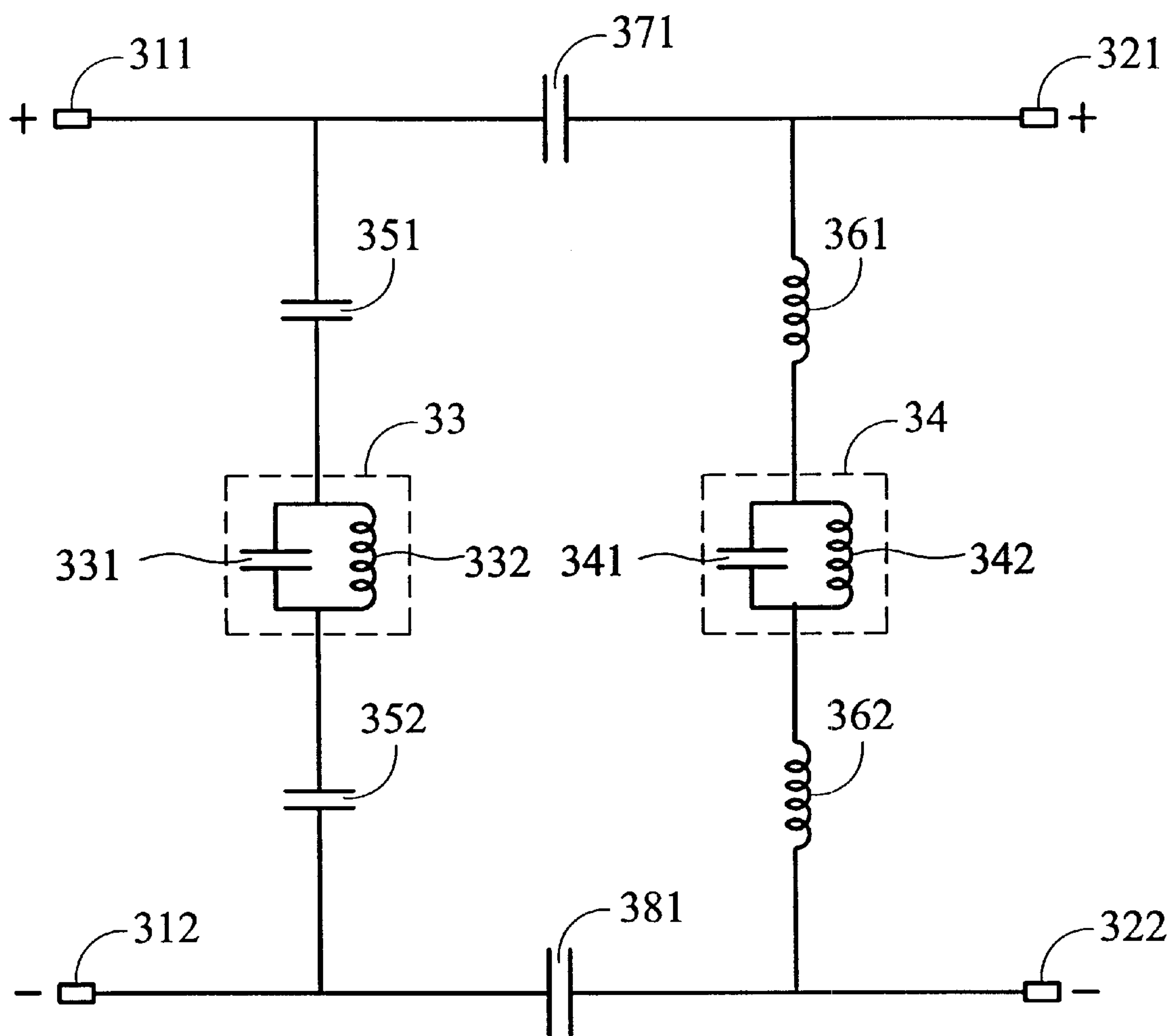


FIG. 4

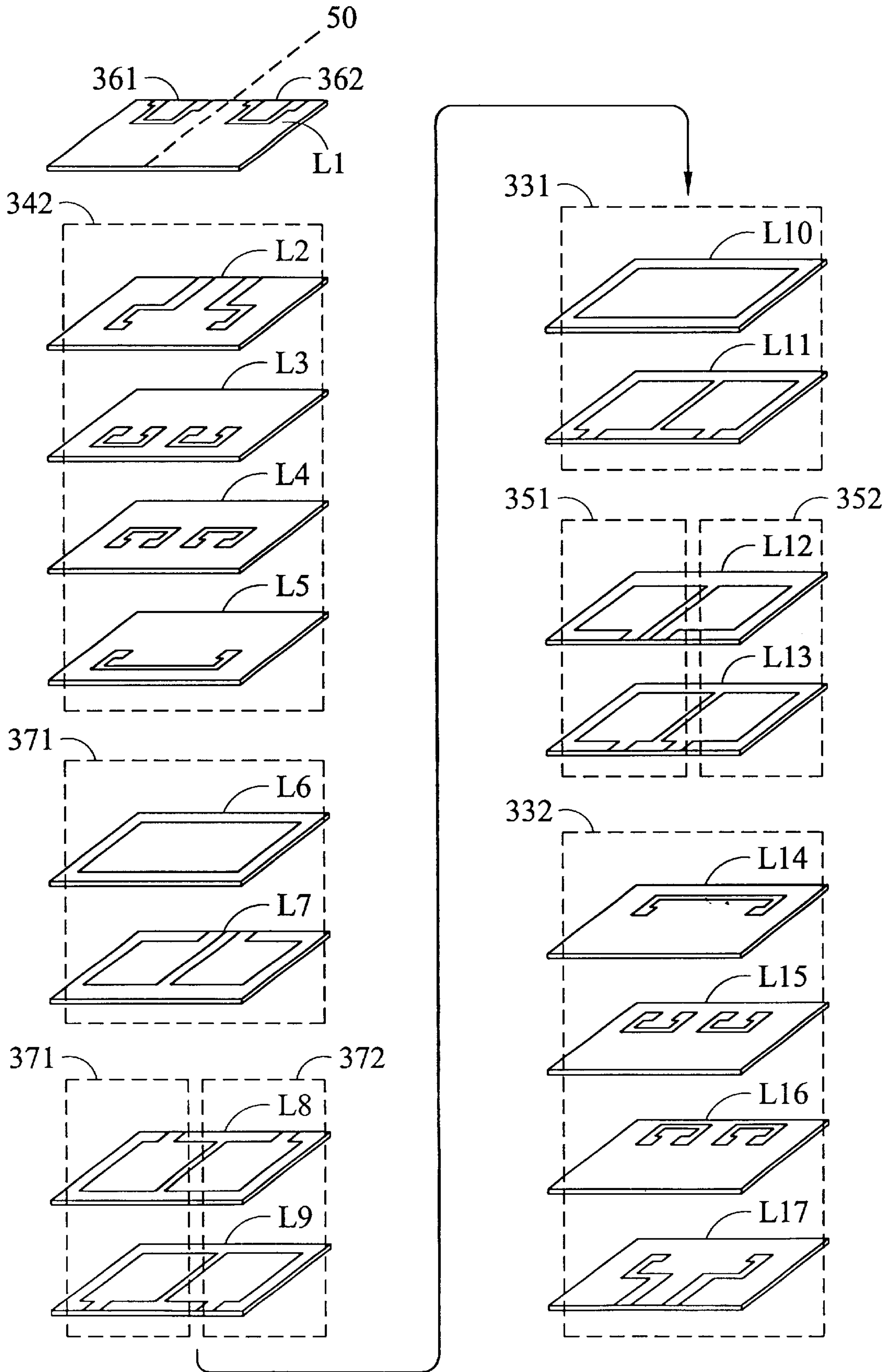


FIG. 5

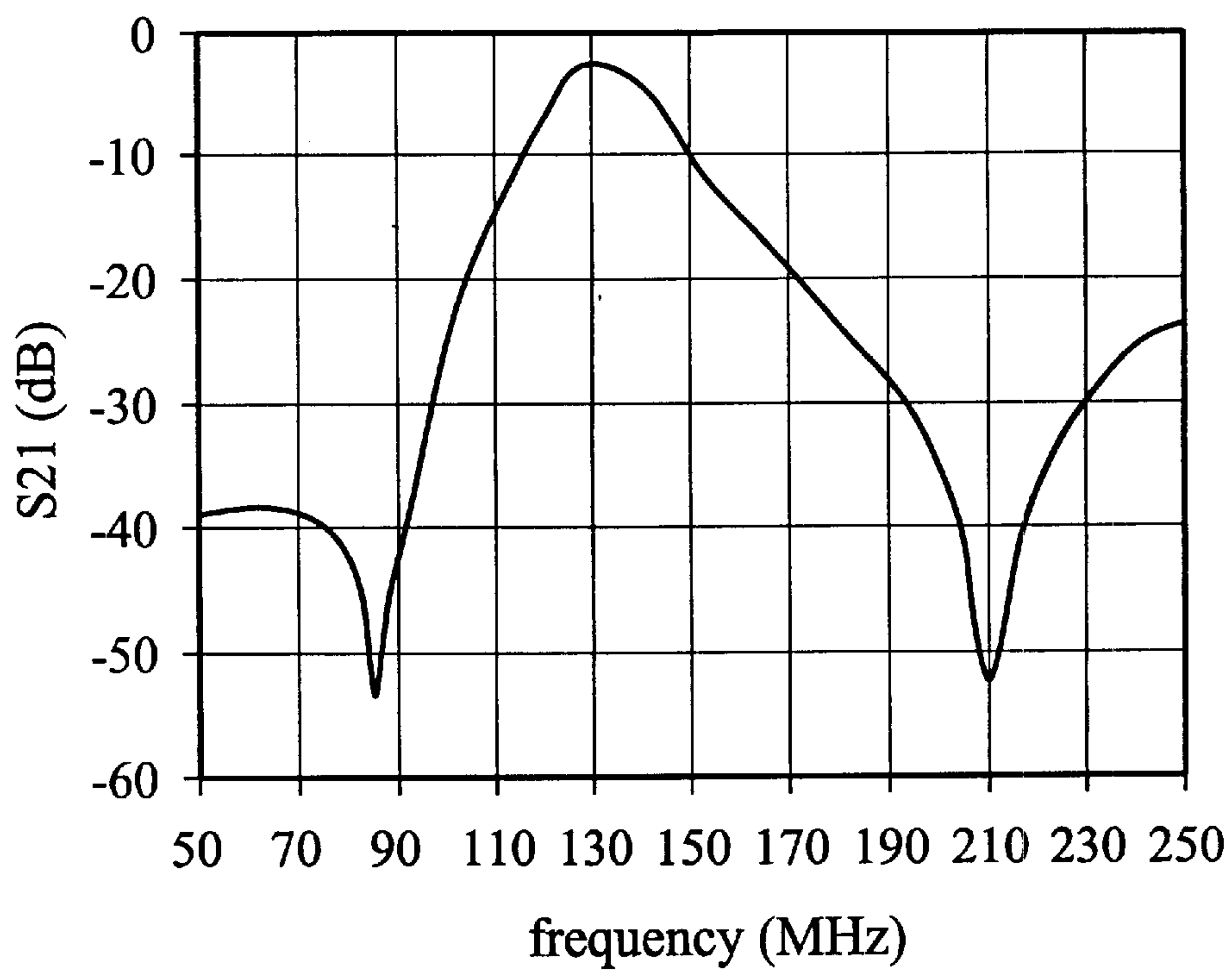


FIG. 6

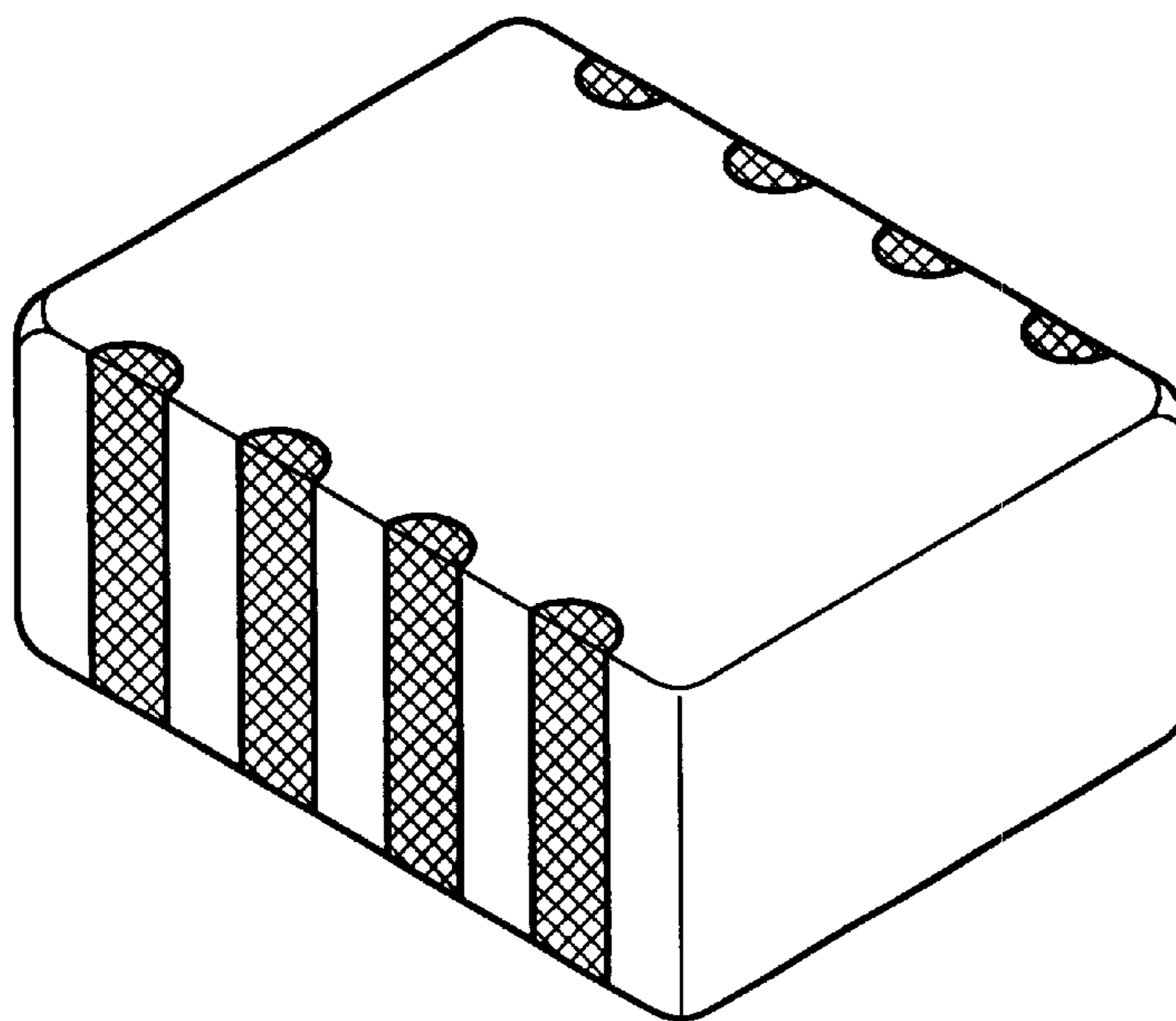


FIG. 7

BALANCED INPUT/OUTPUT FILTER CIRCUIT AND DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates in general to a balanced input/output filter device. In particular, the present invention relates to a ceramic-laminated planar filter comprising balanced input/output terminals.

2. Description of the Related Art

Generally speaking, surface acoustic wave filters are important band-pass filter devices in communications. Although the surface acoustic wave filters have good frequency responses in rejection band, they have disadvantages of cost and size. Therefore, laminated planar filters are employed to decrease the size of products and the cost of production.

A balanced-input-output configuration of laminated planar filters suitable for next-generation super-compact portable telephones is disclosed in 1999 IEEE MTT-S Digest from pages 1143 to 1146. FIG. 1 depicts an equivalent circuit diagram of a conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter. A conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter comprises a positive input terminal **111** and a negative input terminal **112**, a positive output terminal **121** and a negative output terminal **122**, and ceramic resonators **13** and **14**. The ceramic resonators **13** and **14** are coupled between the positive input terminal **111** and a negative input terminal **112** and between the positive output terminal **121** and a negative output terminal **122**, respectively. In addition, a conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter further comprises six coupling capacitors **15**, **16**, **17**, **18**, **19**, and **20**. Capacitors **15**, **19**, **17** are coupled between the positive input terminal **111** and the positive output terminal **121**, and capacitors **16**, **20**, **18** are coupled between the negative input terminal **112** and the negative output terminal **122**.

FIG. 2 depicts the ceramic-laminated planar structure of the circuit in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 2, parallel metal layers (**15~20**) constitute capacitor structures, and resonators are composed by transmission lines **13** and **14**. The transmission lines **13** and **14** are series-connected to the parallel metal layers and are shorter than a quarter wavelength.

FIG. 3 depicts a frequency response plot of the ceramic laminated planar structure in FIG. 2. As shown in FIG. 3, the frequency response of the rejection band of conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter is poor. Therefore, the conventional balanced input/output band-pass filter cannot eliminate signals with undesired frequency.

To overcome this disadvantage, the conventional method is to add the orders of the conventional balanced input/output band-pass filter. Therefore, the conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter circuit must add more ceramic resonators and coupling capacitors to improve the effect of filtering noise.

However, the approach mentioned above uses more elements. Therefore, the cost of fabricating and the size of filter will both increase, which will limit the design of communication apparatus. Moreover, the increase in quantity of elements used increases the insertion loss, so the intensity of the signal to be transmitted will be decreased, worsening the efficacy of the communication apparatus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a balanced input/output filter circuit, under the configuration of a two-order balanced input/output bandpass filter circuit. In the present invention, both sides of the ceramic resonators are serially connected to a pair of inductors and capacitors, respectively. Therefore, the intensity of the signal in rejection band will attenuate effectively without increasing elements of the circuit; moreover, the purpose of decreasing insertion loss and the size of the units will be achieved.

To achieve the above-mentioned object, the present invention provides a balanced input/output filter device. The balanced input/output filter device according to the present invention comprises two resonators, a pair of coupling capacitors, a positive input terminal and a negative input terminal, and a positive output terminal and a negative output terminal.

Both sides of one resonator are serial connected to spiral-type inductors on the other metal layers, and both sides of the other resonator are serial connected to parallel-type capacitors on the other metal layers. The coupling capacitors couple between the spiral-type inductors and the parallel-type capacitors respectively, and the output and input terminals are coupled to the spiral-type inductors and parallel-type capacitors respectively, which are coupled to the resonators.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings, given by way of illustration only and thus not intended to be limitative of the present invention.

FIG. 1 depicts an equivalent circuit diagram of a conventional two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter.

FIG. 2 depicts the ceramic laminated planar structure of the circuit in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 depicts a frequency response plot of the ceramic laminated planar structure in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 depicts an equivalent circuit diagram of a two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 depicts the ceramic laminated planar structure of the circuit according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 depicts a frequency response plot of the ceramic laminated planar structure in FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 depicts the outward appearance of the ceramic filter according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

FIG. 4 depicts an equivalent circuit diagram of a two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter according to the embodiment of the present invention. The elements of two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter circuit according to the embodiment of the present invention are described below, and its laminated planar structure is shown in FIG. 5.

A positive input terminal **311** and a negative input terminal **312** receive balanced signal from outside. A positive output terminal and a negative output terminal output the balanced signal converted by the filter of the present embodiment. The balanced signal is comprised of two signals having the same intensity and 180° phase difference.

In the present embodiment, the ceramic resonators **33** and **34** are composed of capacitor **331** and inductor **332** with parallel connection and capacitor **341** and inductor **342** with parallel connection, respectively. However, the resonator may be another type of conventional resonator. In addition, the sides of resonator **33** are coupled to capacitor **351** and **352** respectively, and both sides of resonator **34** are coupled to inductors **361** and **362** respectively. Referring to FIG. **5**, with the symmetry of structure, each capacitor and inductor are symmetric with the symmetry line **50**.

Coupling capacitor **371** is coupled between the connection point of positive input terminal **311** and capacitor **351** and the connection point of the positive output terminal **321** and inductor **361**. Coupling capacitor **372** is coupled between the connection point of negative input terminal **312** and capacitor **352** and the connection point of the negative output terminal **322** and inductor **362**.

Here, the positive input terminal **311** and the negative input terminal **312** compose a balanced input terminal, and the positive output terminal **321** and the negative output terminal **322** compose a balanced output terminal.

FIG. **5** depicts the ceramic-laminated planar structure of the circuit according to the embodiment of the present invention. Here, each layer is made of dielectric materials, such as barium (Ba), neodymium (Nd), and titanium (Ti). The patterns on the layers are defined by printing metal materials, such as palladium (Pd), on the dielectric layers.

Ceramic filters filter signals by coupling electromagnetic wave in each layer. Inductor layouts are formed with spiral metal layers, and capacitor layouts are formed with parallel metal layers. As shown in FIG. **5**, dielectric layers **L1~L5** and **L14~L17** are inductive dielectric layers, dielectric layers **L6~L15** are capacitance dielectric layers. After the patterns of each layer are defined, the ceramic filter as shown in FIG. **7** is formed by Multi-layer Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramic technology (LTCC). The related description of manufacturing process is disclosed in Taiwan patent number 340998.

In FIG. **5**, the pattern on the dielectric layers **L1** is axial symmetry with symmetry line **50**, as are the other layers. When the ceramic filters according to the present invention convert a balanced signal, the voltage on each layer at symmetry line **50** is zero. Therefore, phase neutralization of the balanced signal is avoided, and insertion loss of the filter is decreased.

Accordingly, the intensity of the signal in rejection band of the ceramic filter according to the present invention will attenuate effectively without increasing the numbers of resonators. Therefore, size increase of the filter will be avoided by not adding unnecessary electrical elements. Moreover, phase neutralization of the balanced signal is avoided, and the insertion loss of the filter is decreased.

FIG. **6** depicts a frequency response plot of the ceramic **5** laminated planar structure in FIG. **5**. Compared with FIG. **3**, the two-order balanced input/output band-pass filter according to the present invention has better frequency response, because both sides of the resonators **33** and **34** of the ceramic filter according to the present invention are connected to capacitors **351**, **352** and inductors **361**, **362** respectively. Therefore, attenuated poles are generated on both sides of the rejection band, so the signal will attenuate effectively in specific frequency bands. It is noted that the frequency of the attenuated poles can be modified by changing the capacitors **351** and **352** and inductors **361** and **362**, and the value of the

resonators may be changed according to the input impedance. Therefore, the design of the invention is suitable for use in various kinds of communication apparatus with different input/output impedance.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of this invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. Obvious modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teaching. The embodiments were chosen and described to provide the best illustration of the principles of this invention and its practical application to thereby enable those skilled in the art to utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. All such modifications and variations are within the scope of the present invention as determined by the appended claims when interpreted in accordance with the breadth of which they are fairly, legally, and equitably entitled.

What is claimed is:

1. A balanced input/output filter circuit, comprising:

a positive input terminal and a negative input terminal;
a first resonator;

a first coupling capacitor and a second coupling capacitor, the first coupling capacitor coupled between the positive input terminal and the first resonator, and the second coupling capacitor coupled between the negative input terminal and the first resonator;

a positive output terminal and a negative output terminal;
a second resonator;

a first inductor and a second inductor, the first inductor coupled between the positive output terminal and the second resonator, and the second inductor coupled between the negative output terminal and the second resonator;

a third coupling capacitor is coupled between the positive input terminal and the positive output terminal; and

a fourth coupling capacitor coupled between the negative input terminal and the negative output terminal.

2. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the balanced input/output filter circuit is a ceramic balanced input/output band-pass filter.

3. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **2**, wherein the first resonator and the second resonator are ceramic resonators.

4. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **3**, wherein the first resonator further comprises:

a fifth capacitor, which is coupled between the first capacitor and the second capacitor; and

a third inductor, which is parallel connected with the fifth capacitor.

5. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **4**, wherein the second resonator further comprises:

a fourth inductor, which is coupled between the first inductor and the second inductor; and

a sixth capacitor, which is parallel connected with the fourth inductor.

6. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **5**, wherein the positive input terminal and the negative input terminal compose a balanced input terminal.

7. The balanced input/output filter circuit as claimed in claim **6**, wherein the positive output terminal and the negative output terminal compose a balanced output terminal.